

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, CI

SUBJECT: REFUGEES IN CHILE

1. MISOFF HAD DISCUSSION WITH UNHCR CHILE DESK OFFICER KOULISCHER RE REFUGEES IN CHILE AND FOUND HIM OPTIMISTIC PROBLEM WILL BE VIRTUALLY RESOLVED BY END THIS MONTH.

2. KOULISCHER REPORTED THAT AS OF FEB 5 THERE REMAINED ABOUT 600 REFUGEES, OF WHOM 130 ARE READY TO DEPART FOR GERMANY (43), CUBA (30), FRANCE (13), AUSTRALIA (11) AND OTHER COUNTRIES (33). OF REMAINING 470 REFUGEES, UNHCR EXPECTS MORE THAN 200 TO BE ACCEPTED BY GERMAN FED. REP. OF THE 250-270 REMAINING AT THAT POINT, UNHCR BELIEVES ONLY ABOUT 100 ACTUALLY REQUIRE EMERGENCY RESETTLEMENT, AND ALL HAVE HAD DOSSIERS SUBMITTED TO RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES FOR CONSIDERATION.

3. THE REMAINING 150-170 ARE CLASSIFIED AS "OLD EUROPEAN REFUGEES" WHO CAME TO CHILE DURING POST-WORLD WAR II PERIOD. KULISCHER SAYS THEY IN NO DANGER IN CHILE AND MERELY TOOK OCCASION OF COUP DEVELOPMENTS TO REGISTER FOR RESETTLEMENT ABROAD. SUCH PERSONS WILL HAVE TO AWAIT PROCESSING UNDER NORMAL IMMIGRATION PROCEDURES, KOULISCHER BELIEVED.

4. OF THE TOTAL 600 REFUGEES PRESENTLY IN CHILE, 185 ARE IN SAFE-HAVENS. WHILE THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE IS OFFICIALLY IN LIQUIDATION, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES AND LEGAL PROTECTION FOR REFUGEES

REMAIN UNCHANGED. KOULISCHER THOUGHT THAT WHEN A NEW COMMITTEE IS FORMED, ITS COMPOSITION WILL BE VIRTUALLY IDENTICAL WITH THE FORMER NATIONAL COMMITTEE, WITH PROBABLE INCLUSION OF CHURCH REPRESENTATIVES AND WITH AN APPARENTLY MORE INDEPENDENT STATUS.

5. RE PROBLEM OF UNREGISTERED UNDERGROUND REFUGEES WHICH MISOFF SAID TROUBLES ICRC, KOULISCHER WAS UNABLE GIVE ANY ESTIMATE OF NUMBERS. HE SAID SOME HAVE DOUBTLESS LEFT CHILE CLANDESTINELY AND OTHERS MAY NOT FEEL NEED TO REGISTER SINCE THEY EXPERIENCING NO PROBLEMS IN LIVING AND WORKING IN CHILE.

6. RE FUTURE UNHCR ROLE IN CHILE, KOULISCHER SAID UNHCR REP SCHLETTER RETURNING TO GENEVA FOR CONSULTATIONS ABOUT END FEBRUARY, AND DECISIONS WILL BE TAKEN THEN. HE OPINED UNHCR WOULD KEEP AT LEAST ONE PROFESSIONAL IN CHILE UNTIL END OF JUNE TO ASSIST IN PROTECTION OF ABOUT 25 FOREIGN REFUGEES IN DETENTION AS WELL AS TO ASSIST SEVERAL HUNDRED OTHERS WHO WANT TO STAY IN CHILE BUT WHO REQUIRE ASSISTANCE IN GETTING DOCUMENTATION IN ORDER TO REMAIN.DALE

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